



## Peer Review

**Norman Goldstein MD**  
**Editor**

As readers of the Journal know, our published manuscripts are peer-reviewed. Our Peer Reviewers are the authorities in many specialties of medicine as well as family and general practice.

Our readers also have diverse backgrounds and interests in many fields of medicine. While some of our manuscripts may seem specialized - such as our Special Issues on Ophthalmology, most physicians find some interest in all of our manuscripts. Highly specialized papers are usually not appropriate for our Journal, and are referred to other publications.

Many physicians spend a great deal of time reviewing the manuscripts sent to them by the Journal Editor, and also responding to the reviewers criticisms of their own papers. The Editor and Guest Editors of our Special Issues also spend countless hours, indeed days, fine-tuning the process of manuscript peer review.

As Drummond Rennie MD, Deputy Editor (West) of *JAMA* noted, peer review educates everyone concerned, and is comforting to editors and to the scientific community, who believe that attempts to make what seems to be an arbitrary process more democratic.<sup>1</sup>

In a publication of the Council of Biology Editors, Inc., Peer Review in Scientific Publications,<sup>2</sup> Rennie further states:

"It is my bias that almost every manuscript that I have handled as an editor has been proved by the scrutiny of reviewers. Some papers have been turned from mediocre to

excellent by the extraordinary efforts of dedicated reviewers. At the very least, authors have had the benefit of fresh sets of eyes, and on a few occasions, the reviewers have saved the author from public humiliation. It is also my bias that, though I have witnessed all sorts of misconduct during the review process, from flagrant plagiarism to unconscionable delay, from malicious slander to willful suppression of new ideas, editorial peer review is a process that has been more beneficial than harmful. It is difficult for me to imagine publication without such review, and if orderly review were abolished tomorrow in favor, say, of some enormous electronic bulletin board, I would become disoriented as well as unemployed."<sup>2</sup>

As Editor of the Journal, I have the same bias. I also have had the opportunity to review dozens of manuscripts submitted for publication, as well as an opportunity to expand my personal reading and knowledge in many fields of medicine - not only in my specialty of dermatology.

My personal mahalo to our peer reviewers. We continue to be fair, honest, and expeditious in our evaluation and publication of our manuscripts.

As the interest in our Journal has increased in the past three or four years, we have received some manuscripts for which we have had no reviewers on our panel. We must expand our Peer Review Panel. If you would like to serve the Journal as a peer reviewer in the following fields, please fax or mail your interest to the Editorial Office fax 808-528-2376.

### References

1. Rennie D. Problems in peer review and fraud; cleave over to the sunnier side of doubt. In: *Balancing Act: Essays to Honor Stephen Lock*, Editor BMJ. London England; The Keynes Press; 1991:9-19.
2. Rennie, D. Peer Review in Scientific Publishing. Papers from the 1st International Congress on Peer Review in Biomedical Publications.

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I would like to serve as a Peer Reviewer in the above field(s) of Medicine.

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